

Our immigration system is broken. As a result, some individuals from other countries, desperate for a better life in the U.S., take great risks to enter our country without proper documentation. We need comprehensive immigration reform that fixes our immigration system, deals humanely with the undocumented immigrants already in America, and increases the security of our borders. As a member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law, I am working hard to draft legislation that will truly reform this country's broken immigration system and give deserving people a chance to become equal members of society.

Comprehensive immigration reform is taking time to negotiate. In the meantime, I support targeted legislation like the DREAM Act, which would help hard-working children of undocumented immigrants attend college and earn legal status. America has never before required children to pay the price for their parents' violations of the law. Instead of doing so now, we should ensure that all children who work hard and get in to college can afford to go.

And to ease the burden that our broken immigration system places on local and state governments, I introduced a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for compensation to states and local counties incarcerating undocumented aliens charged with or convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors. I have also introduced legislation to require the federal government to process SCAAP reimbursements to state and local government in a more timely manner. Making sure our cash-strapped state and local law enforcement agencies are properly reimbursed means that they won't have to choose between detaining criminal aliens and other important public safety priorities.